

Calhoun County Board of Education for two six-year terms. Liz is married to Ronald Decker.

Liz has served countless East Alabamians through the years, assisting them with any number of concerns they may have had, from the grants process to casework focusing on immigration and Social Security. She is known as a kind and genuine public servant, and a joy to have in the Third District family. She will be missed. Thank you, Liz, for your service to the people of the Third District. On behalf of so many East Alabamians you have helped, we wish you well and congratulate you on your retirement.

THE END OF DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, we move one step closer towards full equality by ending the immoral and irresponsible practice of discriminating against courageous Americans who want to serve their country. I am proud to have voted again and again for Don't Ask Don't Tell's repeal because I know—and the military has told us—that ending this policy will strengthen our armed forces.

A comprehensive report from the Defense Department found that of the 400,000 service members and 150,000 military spouses, 70 percent of military personnel thought the repeal would be positive, mixed, or no consequence. This is a remarkable finding, and makes the policy seem all the more indefensible for the more than 14,000 service members who have been discharged.

Brave Americans have served and sacrificed in silence for years while the military enforced a discriminatory and harmful policy. Today this policy is officially a thing of the past, a relic of a different time.

The road to equality is long, winding, and will have many bumps along the way. Today, I have the 14,000 discharged service members in my thoughts as we celebrate the end of an era of discrimination. Tomorrow, we will get back to work, fighting for the Employment and Student Non Discrimination Acts, the Safe Schools Improvement Act, and the Respect for Marriage Act that will overturn DOMA.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF WHCR 90.3 FM PUBLIC ACCESS RADIO, "THE VOICE OF HARLEM"

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great jubilation to recognize the WHCR 90.3 FM Public Radio Station, also known as The Voice of Harlem, to recognize the station's twenty-five years of broadcasting in New York City. As I speak with profound elation, I ascend to celebrate the hard work and devout

effort of WHCR and the amazing people who have contributed to its success all these years and have truly made it Harlem's Voice. WHCR will commemorate their twenty-five years of broadcasting on Friday, September 16, 2011 at the prestigious Aaron Davis Hall.

In my community of Harlem, WHCR is well known for its service as a non-commercial public radio station. Owned and operated by the City College of New York, WHCR gives both City College students and community members the skills to host and produce music and talk shows. The station seeks to empower its listeners by providing informative, educational and cultural programming that speaks to the diverse populations of Harlem, Upper Manhattan and some sections of the Bronx, Queens, and New Jersey.

People around the world can listen to and watch programming on WHCR online. WHCR offers a mixture of music and talk programming and has 20,000 terrestrial, Internet listeners weekly, and 8,000 Internet viewers. The station has served for twenty-five years as the voice of a community that is greatly underserved by the mainstream media.

On-air personality Dee Ramey, the host and producer of the "I Love Jazz!" show on WHCR, is one of those amazing people who have contributed so much. Her show's mission is to drive demand for jazz music, serve as a cultural resource, and connect an increased number of musicians, music presenters, and listeners to community radio, by providing entertainment and information to the growing listenership of WHCR jazz shows. Her valiant efforts have created a new generation of jazz and music connoisseurs in Harlem.

Dee took the initiative to create the first annual "I Love Jazz" Fan Award in an effort to further promote music and the arts throughout the greater community of Harlem. It is my honor and privilege to present this year's "I Love Jazz" award on behalf of my colleagues in the United States Congress to Kevin Walters, the owner of "Creole Supper Club," located in my District in East Harlem. Kevin is a New Yorker at heart with a strong passion for fine music and art and truly deserving of this recognition.

Dee Ramey's "I Love Jazz" radio show airs biweekly on Wednesdays from 6 pm–8 pm and offers an eclectic mix of musical styles. The show unleashes the passion of the jazz fan by inviting individuals to spread their love for jazz through sharing their personal experiences, favorite music, and unique insight into the world of jazz. Interviews with prominent artists and jazz luminaries are a feature on the show, and to name just a few, have included Gracie Tate, Jimmy Heath, Jimmy Scott, Gloria Lynne, Nat Hentoff, Melba Moore, Thelonious Monk, Jr., Wycliffe Gordon, George Gee, Bobby Sanabria, Loren Schoenberg, Billy Mitchell (Mr. Apollo), and Camille Yarbrough.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting WHCR 90.3 FM Public Access Radio, on their 25th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO THE DIXIE BOYS BASEBALL TEAM OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to recognize the Dixie Boys baseball team of Brunswick County, North Carolina, for being named National Champions of the 2011 Dixie Boys World Series.

This year, the Brunswick County team won every match against the other states without losing a single game. The team went on to win the 2011 Dixie Youth World Series held in Beaufort, South Carolina, earning the title of National Champions on August 3, 2011. This is the fourth time that a North Carolina team has earned this title since 1956.

In a true feat of excellence, the team from Brunswick scored 80 runs during its seven games, and failed to score in the double digits in only two of those seven games. As a team, Brunswick County had a strong batting average of .450, with team member Kevon Perkins leading with an astounding .750 average. With an outstanding number of 80 runs, this team truly deserves acclaim for their remarkable accomplishment in the Dixie Boys World Series.

This was Brunswick County's third consecutive year as North Carolina's representing team for the Dixie Boys World Series. The Brunswick County Team went undefeated for its seven games of play, and showcased an unwavering mental and physical tenacity throughout the Dixie Boys championship. This is especially true for their victory over the reigning champion of the Dixie Boys championship, the same team which defeated North Carolina in the past championship game of two years ago.

As founder of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, and also as both a long-time little league coach and one who grew up playing baseball in, as well as a charter member of a youth baseball organization, I appreciate the dedication, determination, and teamwork that earned these players the esteemed title of National Champions.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the Brunswick County baseball team deserve acclaim for their skill as well as for being outstanding ambassadors of Southeastern North Carolina, and the State of North Carolina. Their names are Gray Cheers, Dylan Howard, Shakeem Graham, Chris Graham, Hunter Price, Justin Wittkowsky, Kevon Perkins, Blain Hollis, Randy Mac Clark, Jerry Martin, Shelton Perkins, Garrett Scoggins and Dylan Darguzas. Coaches were Bobby Scoggins, Randy Fennell and Jeffrey Hollis.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor and acknowledge accomplishments of not only the Brunswick County team, but also the parents, relatives and citizens who were so supportive of their children's efforts throughout this championship season. Of equal mention are the coaches and assistant coaches who were instrumental in guiding the team to becoming champions of the Dixie Boys World Series; without these coaches, victory would not have been possible.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Brunswick County

Dixie Boys World Series Championship team and wishing them the very best in all of their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NAACP MID-MANHATTAN BRANCH 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING CHARTER AND IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 10TH ANNUAL FREEDOM FUND ROY WILKINS AWARD LUNCHEON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Mid-Manhattan Branch's 45th Anniversary as they celebrate their 10th Annual Freedom Fund Roy Wilkins Award Luncheon on Saturday, September 17 at the elegant Marina del Rey in the Bronx, New York.

In the mid 1960's a group of citizens, concerned that there was no NAACP Branch in the Mid-Manhattan area, met for several months to plan a branch. Over 500 letters co-signed by Roy Wilkins and Ralph Bunche, invited hopefully interested residents to a meeting at Freedom House (120 Wall Street, New York, NY). The meeting began the enrollment of members that continued until the 50-membership requirement for the Charter was obtained. On June 8, 1966, The Mid-Manhattan Branch received its Charter from the National Office of the NAACP.

Among those playing a key role in securing the Charter were Tom Allen, Harold Bailer, Gloster Current, Max Delson, Shirley Stewart Farmer, Bernard Leannan, Stanley Lowell, Morris Milgram, Bill Morrison, Frederick O'Neal, Betty Stebman and Roy Wilkins. In 1973, branch members agreed that a building was needed to maximize the services to the community. On May 25, 1978, Roy Wilkins and Benjamin Hooks dedicated the Roy Wilkins Center Building in a special ceremony.

For forty-five years, the Mid-Manhattan Branch has been an advocate for all its citizens in the struggle for civil rights and equality in playing an active role in confronting the gaps and disparities in healthcare, economics and education funding.

Today, under the leadership of Branch President Geoffrey E. Eaton, the Mid-Manhattan Branch has over 760 members, with ten working Committees—Act-So, Criminal Justice, Civic Engagement, Education, Fundraising, Health, Housing, Membership, Veteran Affairs and Youth Council. The NAACP, under the leadership of our Chairman Roslyn M. Brock, and President Benjamin Todd Jealous is more diverse and more active than before and the Mid-Manhattan Branch continues to be actively and directly involved with voter education, registration and mobilization, as well as youth development and enrichment programs like mentoring and mentorship.

The Mid-Manhattan Branch has brought their informative General Membership meetings closer to the community and to the public at large and are broadcast monthly on Manhattan Neighborhood Network Cable Television (MNN). This year, they held their second annual Criminal Justice forum featuring

the U.S. Secret Service, FBI, DEA, ATF, U.S. Marshall Service, NYPD, featuring the role of women in law enforcement at Wadleigh School for the Performing Arts. They are empowering more parents on issues of education and focusing more time on HIV/AIDS Awareness, Obesity and other health concerns. At the 102nd National Convention in Los Angeles, Mid-Manhattan took 2nd Place in the Thalheimer Award competition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting all the officers, executive committee and members of the NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch as they celebrate their 45th Anniversary of their founding Charter and 10th Annual Freedom Fund Roy Wilkins Award Luncheon.

COMMEMORATION OF TAIWAN'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, one hundred years is a long time. Much has happened in these last 100 years since a group of Chinese people, led by Sun Yat-sen, threw off the yoke of warlords and emperors to become the Republic of China (Taiwan).

China has a long history as one of the earliest centers of human civilization. It brought us the invention of paper, the written word and so many scientific developments, but it is during these last 100 years that we have seen the great progress of Taiwan developing into one of the strongest democracies in the world.

We congratulate Taiwan on its 100th anniversary and for its role in shaping the destiny of its people. We look forward to continuing Taiwan's partnership with the United States through the Taiwan Relations Act in promoting peace and progress for humanity.

THE ALAMO: THE THERMOPYLAE OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a plaque on the Alamo wall states: "The Alamo: The Thermopylae of Texas." The Alamo is a tribute to all those that are defiant against any form of tyranny. It is important for us to recognize all those that sacrificed for freedom, yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Remember who we are and what we stand for. This week, we "Remember the Alamo."

One hundred seventy-five years ago, 187 freedom fighters started assembling in an old beat-up mission in San Antonio. Juan Seguin and his company of Tejanos, rode into the Alamo and readied for battle alongside William Barrett Travis, Jim Bowie, and Davy Crockett. This rag-tag group of relentless patriots, made up of men from nearly every State in the Union and 13 foreign countries, including Mexico, readied for one of the most storied battles in our history.

Outnumbered by an overwhelming Mexican army, these Texas warriors knew that sur-

render was not an option. Retreat was never on the table. Victory or death.

On February 23, 1836, Santa Ana's army of 1,500 well armed troops unleashed on the defenders of the Alamo. During the siege, Travis sent out his famous call for reinforcements. Juan Seguin was the last messenger to leave, riding though enemy lines carrying the final message from the beleaguered mission. Unfortunately, the call for help was not answered in time. On March 6, 1836, Travis and 187 volunteers sacrificed their lives on the altar of freedom after thirteen glorious days at the Alamo.

It was at his final battle that my favorite Texas war hero, William Barrett Travis, penned the most famous letter in Texas history. From behind the walls of a besieged run-down mission in San Antonio, Travis wrote:

To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world, fellow citizens and compatriots, I am besieged by a thousand or more of the enemy under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannon fire for over 24 hours, but I have not lost a man.

The enemy has demanded surrender at its discretion. Otherwise, the fort will be put to the sword. I have answered that demand with a cannon shot. And the flag still waves proudly over the north wall.

I shall never surrender or retreat. I call upon you, in the name of liberty and patriotism and everything dear to the American character, to come to my aid with all dispatch.

If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself for as long as possible, die like a soldier who never forgets what is due his honor and that of his country. Victory or death.

I could read this over and over. As a child, I was so intrigued by this letter. I would always be the first in my class to volunteer to play Travis at any given opportunity, if only just to read his words aloud. To me, he was the ultimate hero.

History teaches us everything we need to know, if we just look. This letter was written nearly two centuries ago and its message still rings true today. It's a story of "liberty and patriotism and everything dear to the American character." Freedom is still worth dying for. And to do so as a soldier, "is what is due his honor and that of his country."

Travis believed these words wholeheartedly. He believed that the cause for independence was worth his life. Our freedom fighters today understand these words as well, they know that America is worth fighting for and that defeat is not an option.

When I visit our troops over in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Texas boys, and gals, are easy to spot. They usually have a Texas flag flying on their humvee. (I have even seen one on a tank.) My personal favorite is the "Don't Mess with Texas" bumper sticker. And when you meet these modern-day freedom fighters, you know that no truer words have ever been spoken. There's just something about a Texas warrior.

As we continue to celebrate the 175th anniversary of Texas Independence this year, I will take a look back at those that put it all on the line for freedom. As much as some things change, the most important, thankfully stays the same. A century and half later, that same dogged determination that filled that little Spanish Mission is what continues to set us apart from all the rest. "God and Texas."—William Barrett Travis.

And that's just the way it is.